

Tablets vs Netbooks vs Laptops

October 2012

Vol. 1 Issue 3

So you've finally decided you want a portable personal computer but you are just not sure which suits you best? Here's a guide;

Tablets

These are certainly the current trend and at this pace they might even outsell the mobile phone seeing they've already eaten into the traditional portable PC market. But in general what's the appeal with tablets? Tablets have taken off due to their ability to allow users the convenience of a mobile PC that is small and trendy enough to allow for data and media consumption on the go while taking up as little space as your old diary. Even the big screen 10 inch tablets are smaller than the traditional laptop at just around the same size as a full size A4 diary while the small ones can even fit in your jeans at 7 inch.

Unfortunately however due to their nature tablets are more suited for media consumption than generation. Similarly with productivity, they are better suited for email viewing, replies and the odd editing of an already existing document. Much as the android market has tons of apps for content creation most of us are still used to the traditional tactile keyboard and large screen when it comes to creating complex spreadsheets, feature rich presentations and multiple paged documents. Even when you get a tablet that comes with a tactile keyboard the keys are still too soft to replace the traditional feel of a laptop and those that come with a proper keyboards usually do so at a price, both financially and in terms of portability.

Much as you may want one of these devices, whether you need it is debatable. Considering one can get smart phones with screens between 4 and 5 inch which are perfect for media consumption and light content creation while still allowing for maximum portability one may argue that a tablet is just too cumbersome. But ultimately it's a matter of personal choice and means but if you are not into adding another gadget into your list a large screen smart phone can be as useful as a tablet seeing that they share the applications without the punishment of an additional device. While it is not a prerequisite (unless your tablet is an iPad) I normally think it's advisable to have a PC at home with bigger storage which you can use as a host for content generation and storage while only transferring to the tablet what you need to carry with you for that day/ week.

So once you've made up your mind that you want one of these the next question is which should you get?

Tip

While all iPads are Tablets not all tablets are iPads. This is a common mistake made by people who assume that just because it's a tablet it has to be an iPad. Apple iPads are only made by Apple, Android Tablets on the other hand run only Android but made by different manufactures led by Samsung, HTC, Motorola, Sony, Acer and other.

There are other tablets which run different platforms to the above but are not really worth talking about seeing they are either dead, dying or at their budding stages. These include HP Palm Tablet, Blackberry's Playbook and Windows 8 Tablets.



Google Android Tablets.

The beauty about android tablets is that despite sharing a common platform (bar the versions) there's a wide variety of choices as these are made by different manufacturers. What this translates to is a price and size benefit for the user because one can get an android tablet for under R 1000 and as small as 7 inch. If you are a new entrant into the tablet market I advise one to opt for an android tablet. Because of their affordability these can be easily disposable, an advantage considering that your new tablet will probably date in less than 6 months! Also by virtue of android being backed by Google you will have a seamless integration with other Google products including Google Maps, YouTube, Google Plus, Google Drive and other useful apps. Should you progress to advanced stage with a bigger budget to splurge then there are 10 inc quad core tablets that have all the bells and whistles including high definition, blisteringly fast processing speeds just to mention a few.

Apple iOS iPad

You can off course follow the crowd and get an Apple iPad but be warned that Apple is very restrictive in terms of what you can and can't do with the device. Also because the iPad is only made by one manufacturer there's very little choice in terms of price. Fortunately though if choosing leaves your head smoking due to confusion you will be pleased to hear it only comes in one size, for now at least (around 10 inch).

Other

There are other platforms some which are ambitious enough to take the market owned by Google's Android and Apple's iOS like Microsoft's Windows 8 Tablets. You can try this if you are brave enough and the fact that it's a Microsoft Windows' product should make for some seamless integration with your PC. Unfortunately however I have personally had a terrible experience with Windows' Mobile devices on my Omnia and know one too many people who condemn HTC for its past Windows related sins. I do feel it would be useless talking about HP's Palm Tablets and Blackberry's Playbook as there are either dead already or dying a slow death as we speak!



www.salatiso.com

E: info@salatiso.com

GChat: spiceinc@gmail.com

Text (Whatsapp): +27 83-400-3514

Tablets vs Netbooks vs Laptops

October 2012

Vol. 1 Issue 3

Netbooks

Netbooks somehow did not take off as well as they should have and I suspect the tablet is to blame. These are smaller than the traditional laptop at around 10 inch while retaining most of the features from their laptop ancestors. The only feature really that they don't have in terms of hardware is a CD/ DVD drive but most of the ports are there and they come in the traditional clam-shell form like laptops.

The major difference between the netbooks and the laptops apart from size is the performance. While with laptops you have a wide range of choices when it comes to processors netbooks generally come with Atom processors which while they may satisfy the needs of Joe Average they fall short when it comes to intermediate to advanced user demands. If you generate a lot of presentations or play games you will be found wanting with a netbook because the screen is small and the processor and graphics might not take the workload.



If all you need though is a portable machine with more functionality than a tablet without the size penalty of a conventional laptop then a netbook is your best bet. This is especially important if you don't have a car and you want something you can carry with you in the bus/ taxi without attracting unwanted attention. These will fit in most women's daily bags or amongst the books in a student's backpack. Netbooks are also cheaper with prices starting a little above R2000 rand for a decent one with storage space around 300 Gigabytes.

I can touch into other devices which are around the same size as the netbook like Sony's VAIO Y series but as price is key and these are quite expensive I think it defeats the purpose.

Notebooks/ Laptops



I think most of us know what these are and their advantages and disadvantages when compared with the above. Most people will have either a Laptop or Home PC together with either of the above devices. These are more portable than a desktop PC while having just as much power and functionality.

The only snag however when laptops are compared against desktops comes down to cost. For one to have a laptop that performs as much as a standard desktop they'll have to pay around 20 -40% more for the laptop. The other issue is that it is fairly easy to make your own upgrades on a desktop and component prices are generally cheaper for the static machines when compared to their portable counterparts. The other issue that most people forget is that if you must choose between a desktop and a laptop and price is important a desktop often makes more sense as it is less susceptible to theft, cheaper to maintain and cheaper to upgrade. Also I've come to notice that with most laptops/ netbooks should the screen break it's probably better to buy a new machine as replacing the screen costs around the same as a new laptop!

If money is of no concern though and style is important to you Ultrabooks are for you. These are around the same size as laptops but ultra-thin and super-fast. Their build quality is also generally superior as most manufacturers for Ultrabooks go for sleek metal vs plastic and present it in a perfect unibody style. While one can get a laptop though from around R3000 an Ultrabook probably starts around R10 000, for a basic one!

I'm hoping this will make your purchase a little easier and more suited to your needs.

